

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SY-03 FBIE-00 L-03 SS-20 SP-03

NSC-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CPR-02 DRC-01

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R 022259Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ASEC, UR, US

SUBJECT: ARMED ROBBERY OF SOVIET EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY

REF: STATE 061899

1. DEPARTMENT MARCH 29 RECEIVED SOVIET EMBASSY AIDE MEMOIRE DATED THAT DAY PROTESTING KRASHENINNIKOV INCIDENT AND TWO OTHER INCIDENTS OF PURSE SNATCHING INVOLVING SOVIET PERSONNEL.

2. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF AIDE MEMOIRE FOLLOWS:

"SOVIET EMBASSY CALLS STATE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO AN INCIDENT OF ARMED ATTACK AND ROBBERY AGAINST A SOVIET DIPLOMAT WHICH TOOK PLACE ABOUT 9:30 PM MARCH 26. EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY V. N. KRASHENINNIKOV WAS STOPPED AT THE ENTRANCE OF HIS APARTMENT BUILDING WHILE RETURNING HOME FROM WORK BY TWO UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO THREATENED HIM WITH A WEAPON, ROBBED HIM AND TOOK THE DOCUMENTS AND MONEY HE HAD

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ON HIS PERSON. IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT DURING THE

ENTIRE INCIDENT THE LIFE OF A SOVIET DIPLOMAT WAS THREATENED, BECAUSE ONE OF THE THIEVES KEPT HIM COVERED WITH A PISTOL. THE SOVIET EMBASSY NOTES THAT ATTACKS AGAINST SOVIET PERSONNEL IN THE US AND VIOLATIONS OF THEIR IMMUNITY HAVE RECENTLY INCREASED NOTICEABLY. THUS, ON FEBRUARY 22 AT 8:30 PM THREE UNKNOWN PERSONS GRABBED A PURSE FROM THE HANDS OF THE

WIFE OF THIRD SECRETARY N. A. DEGTYAR AND RAN OFF. ON MARCH 5 AT 6:45 PM A SIMILAR ATTACK TOOK PLACE AGAINST EMPLOYEE OF THE COMMERCIAL OFFICE A. S. BENDER, WHOSE PURSE WAS GRABBED FROM HER HANDS BY UNKNOWN PERSONS NEAR HER RESIDENCE. IN CONNECTION WITH THE ABOVE THE SOVIET EMBASSY REGISTERS A PROTEST WITH THE DEPARTMENT, DEMANDS THAT THE GUILTY PARTIES BE SOUGHT AND PUNISHED, AND INSISTS THAT URGENT AND EFFECTIVE MEASURES BE TAKEN TO PROTECT THE PERSONNEL OF SOVIET ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE US FROM INCIDENTS WHICH VIOLATE THEIR SAFETY AND ARE FROUGHT WITH THE MOST SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES."

3. DEPTOFF DISCUSSED KARSHENINNIKOV INCIDENT BRIEFLY APRIL 1 WITH SOVIET CONSUL GALISHNIKOV, WHO WAS IN DEPARTMENT ON ANOTHER MATTER. DEPTOFF EXPRESSED REGRET OVER INCIDENT, SAID WE WOULD DO ALL POSSIBLE TO PROTECT SOVIET OFFICIALS IN US, BUT NOTED DIFFICULTY OF PROTECTING EACH SOVIET EMPLOYEE AND HIS DEPENDENTS ON 24-HOUR BASIS. GALISHNIKOV SAID HE UNDERSTOOD AND ADDED THAT ADELPHI, MARYLAND, WHERE KRASENINNIKOV RESIDES, SEEMED TO BE A HIGH-CRIME AREA. SOVIET EMBASSY WAS THINKING OF RELOCATING ITS PERSONNEL HOUSED THERE. RUSH

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